

From: Dale Carlson
To: Microsoft ATR
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Subject: Microsoft Settlement

I see a 3 part solution:

1. Force Microsoft to open their APIs to anyone who wants them.
2. Prohibit Microsoft from requiring every PC manufacturer who ships a Microsoft-based OS compatible PC to purchase a licence for EVERY machine they make. For example, if someone wishes to purchase a Dell PC to run Linux, they should not be forced to pay for a copy of Windows that they will never use.

Most importantly:

3. Limit the number of technologies Microsoft can purchase every month/year. Since they do not innovate, but rather swallow up other companies and technologies, they destroy competition. This is a fundamental part of their business strategy. Instead of developing a better competing product, simply buy out the competition.

It is impossible to eliminate Microsoft's existing monopoly. Preventing it from continuing is the key. Financial penalties only drive up costs for those who are forced to use the entrenched MS products, and fail to serve any purpose. Requiring Microsoft to donate their technologies to schools does nothing but strengthen their monopoly. The settlement must prevent the continued spread of Microsoft's stronghold on the industry.

It can be summed up very simply. In the case of Apple computer, potential Macintosh computer customers are often most concerned about whether or not the Mac runs Microsoft Office. In fact, some people don't purchase Macs because they believe they can't run Office (Word, Excel, etc). The fact that they can run Office, yet this fact is poorly advertised is irrelevant. What is relevant is that people are so dependant on Microsoft technology that it influences multi-thousand dollar decisions.

This dependancy on software from a company whose track record on security is not exactly excellent is a scary thought indeed. Support diversity in the industry.

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